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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/776,865	02/02/2001	Carl G. Hellerqvist	22100-0100 (46126-252687)	7056
23370 7590 11/01/2007 JOHN S. PRATT, ESQ KILPATRICK STOCKTON, LLP 1100 PEACHTREE STREET ATLANTA, GA 30309				
EXAMINER RAWLINGS, STEPHEN L				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
1643				
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/776,865

Applicant(s)

HELLERQVIST, CARL G.

Examiner

Stephen L. Rawlings, Ph.D.

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 August 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 4, 5, 8-10, 15, 16, 31, 33-38, 40-42, 45, 46 and 59-92 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) See Continuation Sheet are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- ☐ Other: _____

Continuation of Disposition of Claims: Claims subject to restriction and/or election requirement are 1,4,5,8-10,15,16,31,33-38,40-42,45,46 and 59-92.

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on August 14, 2007, has been entered.

1. The amendment filed August 14, 2007, is acknowledged and has been entered. Claims 6, 7, 11-14, 29, 30, 32, 43, 44, 47, 48, 55, and 56 have been canceled. Claims 1, 4, 5, 8-10, 15, 16, 31, 33-35, 37, 38, 40-42, 45, and 46 have been amended. Claims 59-92 have been added.

2. Claims 1, 4, 5, 8-10, 15, 16, 31, 33-38, 40-42, 45, 46, and 59-92 are pending in the application and are currently subject to restriction.

Election/Restrictions

3. Upon further consideration of the claims in light of the amendment filed August 14, 2007, each requirement to elect a single species of the elected inventions of Groups 1 and 11¹, as set forth in section 5, beginning at page 17 of the Office action mailed May 21, 2002, has been withdrawn in favor of the following election requirement².

¹ Claims directed to the inventions of Groups 1 and 11 were rejoined by the Office action mailed September 6, 2005.

² M.P.E.P. § 808.01(a) states: "If applicant presents species claims to more than one patentably distinct species of the invention after an Office action on only generic claims, with no restriction requirement, the Office may require the applicant to elect a single species for examination". See M.P.E.P. §§ 811.02 and 818.02(b).

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4. Newly added claims 59-71 and 89-91 are directed to the inventions of Groups 1 and/or 11; claims 72-88 and 92 are directed to an invention, which is a product used in practicing the inventions of Groups 1 and/or 11.

5. This application contains claims directed to patentably distinct species of the invention of Groups 1 and 11, or to the inventions of newly added claims 72-88 and 92, wherein said composition comprising an amount of one or more immunogenic Group B β -hemolytic Streptococci toxin receptor peptides comprises one of said peptides comprising one or more amino acid sequences selected from the group consisting of: (a) amino acid residues 49-63 of SEQ ID NO: 2, (b) amino acid residues 112-125 of SEQ ID NO: 2, (c) amino acid residues 8-28 of SEQ ID NO: 2, (d) amino acid residues 49-76 of SEQ ID NO: 2, (e) amino acid residues 14-19 of SEQ ID NO: 4, (f) amino acid residues 75-80 of SEQ ID NO: 4, (g) amino acid residues 25-30 of SEQ ID NO: 4, (h) amino acid residues 9-35 of SEQ ID NO: 4, (i) amino acid residues 8-22 of SEQ ID NO: 4, and (j) amino acid residues 71-84 of SEQ ID NO: 4.

Each species of inventions is patentably distinct from the others since each member of the genus of immunogenic Group B β -hemolytic Streptococci toxin receptor peptides comprising one or more different sequences is distinct from the others. Accordingly, the examination of claims directed to any one species of invention would require a unique search that is not required for examination of any of the other species of invention, because the search of any one member of the genus of immunogenic Group B β -hemolytic Streptococci toxin receptor peptides will not provide adequate information regarding any other. Moreover, the search necessary to examine claims directed to any one species of invention is not the same, nor is it coextensive with the search necessary to examine claims directed to any other. Since having to perform more than one search would constitute a serious burden, it is proper to restrict these species of invention and require Applicant to elect only one. See MPEP § 809.

Applicant is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 to specifically elect a single species of invention by identifying the one immunogenic Group B β -hemolytic Streptococci toxin

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receptor peptide comprising one or more of the specified amino acid sequences to which the claims of elected group of inventions will be directed during prosecution on the merits, and to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable. The Examiner notes that novelty and nonobviousness of the elected species of invention would render claims directed to that species allowable over the prior art, but not necessarily over the requirements set forth under 35 U.S.C. §§ 101 and 112.

Applicant is advised that a reply to this requirement must include an identification of the species that is elected consonant with this requirement, and a listing of all claims readable thereon, including any claims subsequently added. Upon the allowance of a generic claim, Applicant will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species, which are written in dependent form, or otherwise, include all the limitations of an allowed generic claim as provided by 37 CFR 1.141. If claims are added after the election, applicant must indicate which are readable upon the elected species. MPEP § 809.02(a).

6. Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include (i) an election of a species or invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143) and (ii) identification of the claims encompassing the elected invention. An argument that a claim is allowable or that all claims are generic is considered nonresponsive unless accompanied by an election.

The election of an invention or species may be made with or without traverse. To reserve a right to petition, the election must be made with traverse. If the reply does not distinctly and specifically point out supposed errors in the restriction requirement, the election shall be treated as an election without traverse.

Should applicant traverse on the ground that the inventions or species are not patentably distinct, applicant should submit evidence or identify such evidence now of record showing the inventions or species to be obvious variants or clearly admit on the record that this is the case. In either instance, if the examiner finds one of the inventions

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unpatentable over the prior art, the evidence or admission may be used in a rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) of the other invention.

7. Effective November 1, 2007, if applicant wishes to present more than 5 independent claims or more than 25 total claims in an application, applicant will be required to file an examination support document (ESD) in compliance with 37 CFR 1.265 before the first Office action on the merits (hereafter "5/25 claim threshold"). See Changes to Practice for Continued Examination Filings, Patent Applications Containing Patentably Indistinct Claims, and Examination of Claims in Patent Applications, 72 Fed. Reg. 46715 (Aug. 21, 2007), 1322 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 76 (Sept. 11, 2007) (final rule). The changes to 37 CFR 1.75(b) apply to any pending applications in which a first Office action on the merits (FAOM) has not been mailed before November 1, 2007. Withdrawn claims will not be taken into account in determining whether an application exceeds the 5/25 claim threshold. For more information on the final rule, please see <http://www.uspto.gov/web/offices/pac/dapp/opla/presentation/clmcontfinalrule.html>.

In response to the restriction requirement set forth in this Office action, applicant is required to file an election responsive to the restriction requirement. Applicant may not file a suggested restriction requirement (SRR) in lieu of an election responsive to the restriction requirement as a reply. A SRR alone will not be considered a *bona-fide* reply to this Office action.

If applicant elects an invention that is drawn to no more than 5 independent claims and no more than 25 total claims, applicant will not be required to file an ESD in compliance with 37 CFR 1.265 that covers each of the elected claims. If the elected invention is drawn to more than 5 independent claims or more than 25 total claims, applicant may file an amendment canceling a number of elected claims so that the elected invention would be drawn to no more than 5 independent claims and no more than 25 total claims.

If the restriction requirement is mailed on or after November 1, 2007, applicant is also required to file an ESD in compliance with 37 CFR 1.265 that covers each of the elected claims, unless the elected invention is drawn to no more than 5 independent

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claims and no more than 25 total claims taking into account any amendment to the claims. To avoid the abandonment of the application, the ESD (if required) and the election must be filed within **TWO MONTHS** from the mailing date of this Office action. The two-month time period for reply is extendable under 37 CFR 1.136.

If the restriction requirement is mailed before November 1, 2007, the election must be filed within **ONE MONTH** or THIRTY DAYS, whichever is longer, from the mailing date of this Office action. The time period for reply is extendable under 37 CFR 1.136. Furthermore, if the elected invention is drawn to more than 5 independent claims or more than 25 total claims taking into account any amendment to the claims, the Office will notify applicant and provide a time period in which applicant is required to file an ESD in compliance with 37 CFR 1.265 covering each of the elected claims or amend the application to contain no more than 5 independent elected claims and no more than 25 total elected claims.

Conclusion

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Stephen L. Rawlings, Ph.D., whose telephone number is (571) 272-0836. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 8:30AM-5:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Larry Helms, Ph.D. can be reached on (571) 272-0832. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/Stephen L. Rawlings/
Stephen L. Rawlings, Ph.D.
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1643

slr

October 27, 2007